PUTTING PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE
MAIN GUIDELINES & RECOMMENDATIONS

MULTI-YEAR HUMANITARIAN FUNDING
LOCALISING THE RESPONSE
CASH-BASED RESPONSE
HUMANITARIAN DEVELOPMENT COHERENCE
FINANCING PREPAREDNESS
URBAN CRISIS
CRISES IN MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES
INCREASED EFFECTIVENESS

COMMITMENTS INTO ACTION SERIES

WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT
PUTTING POLICY INTO PRACTICE
Commitments into action
For more effective humanitarian assistance

We must “co-ordinate our efforts to reduce the gravest danger and provide vital hope for populations who are at the biggest risk of being left behind.”

Douglas Frantz, Deputy Secretary General of the OECD

How can we best reach those left furthest behind? How do we put people at the center? How can we manage migration flows? How can we create better coherence between humanitarian aid and development co-operation, while preserving humanitarian principles? These questions are central to effective humanitarian action and are at the heart of commitments donors have made during the World Humanitarian Summit.

The OECD guideline series “Commitments into Action” is designed to help DAC members deliver on these commitments and promote more effective humanitarian assistance in a changing world. The series includes:

Humanitarian and development actors: tackling crises together
Crisis are not accidents on the road to development to be cleaned up with humanitarian aid. Instead, crises are complex, displacements are prolonged, and in protracted crises, people’s needs extend far beyond immediate, life-saving support. Development and humanitarian actors need to work coherently if these situations are to be tackled effectively, through careful layering of their different funding instruments and programming. Coherence and delivering collective outcomes will help better meet the needs of the most vulnerable while also addressing the longer-term drivers of vulnerability and crises.

Long-term crises need long-term response
Multi-year humanitarian funding saves money, helps make humanitarian aid more effective, and brings better outcomes and greater resilience for people affected by crises. Responding to long-term humanitarian needs with multi-year funding helps save lives tomorrow; addressing today’s needs and reducing the risks of future shocks.

People in humanitarian crises need cash, not commodities
Cash-based responses give people affected by crises more control of their lives. Cash can help deliver more sustainable impacts. When people receive in-kind commodities that may not meet their priorities, they often sell them, which in turn can distort local markets. Providing cash promotes dignity, choice and the ability for recipients to prioritise their own needs.
Support local responders, the front line of emergency action
Donors should ensure a fair partnership with national and local actors who are often the first and sometimes the only actors to respond to crisis situations. Allowing local development actors to build their emergency response capacity within their development programmes, and to scale up their activities to respond to humanitarian needs, is a good way to align development action and humanitarian response, and support these vital first responders.

Invest in preparedness: it saves lives and saves money
For donors, preparedness means investing in systems that will allow national authorities, humanitarian organisations and communities to deploy staff and resources quickly and effectively once a crisis strikes. Preparedness also helps to mitigate the impact of disasters when they hit, and ensure humanitarian responses can address needs effectively and efficiently: saving lives and saving money.

The next crisis is likely to be urban: look at needs differently
Cities are transformed during crises. Infrastructure can be destroyed, the old inhabitants can move out and new people move in. Donors should accompany these changes and help build resilient cities. Because those densely populated areas function through networks and through both formal and informal governance actors and economies, urban contexts pose many challenges to humanitarian actors. When emergency and long-term needs overlap, donors should look at addressing vulnerabilities to increase the coherence and effectiveness of their intervention in cities.

Crises in Middle-Income Countries have specific drivers and dynamics
Middle-income countries are also increasingly exposed to external or internal shocks: more than half of the countries on the OECD’s fragile states list are middle-income countries. For these countries, bearing the costs associated with crises can deepen vulnerability by diverting resources from development objectives and increasing the level of indebtedness. In middle-income countries, donors should design development strategies and programmes that factor in crisis prevention, and are shock responsive and flexible.

Effective response in humanitarian contexts
Humanitarian response is effective when it reaches the most vulnerable. Being effective in humanitarian contexts must be more than providing a solid lifeline. A donor’s role is to create the space for their partners to work effectively in such contexts, through timely, predictable humanitarian funding, and through flexible development programmes. Being effective also requires that donors talk to governments in crisis countries to create a positive policy environment that can protect and empower the people affected by crises.

http://www.oecd.org/development/humanitarian-donors/
The OECD is bringing together humanitarian, resilience and fragility policy and practice to help forge solid pathways to improved well-being for states and societies at risk. We use our unique convening power to provide safe spaces for members to share good practice, to influence others, and to turn research into better results on the ground. Our role is to help members build on today’s capacities to deliver a better tomorrow.

For further info visit: www.oecd.org/dac/conflict-fragility-resilience/